AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Previously presented) A method for obtaining media data in a client device, the method comprising:

requesting media data from a meta data server on a media network managed by a media service provider;

receiving meta data from the meta data server, the meta data associated with the requested media data;

using the received meta data to locate at least one media data server, the media data server separate from the media network and controlled by a media data owner independent of the media service provider; and

accessing the requested media data from the media data server.

2.   (Currently amended) A distributed media network system comprising:

at least one meta data server ~~on a media network~~ managed by a media service provider, wherein in response to receiving a request for media data the meta data server provides meta data associated with the requested media data;

at least one media data server separate from the <u>meta data server</u> ~~media network~~ and controlled by a media data owner <u>different from</u> ~~independent of~~ the media service provider; and

at least one client connected to the <u>meta data server</u> ~~media network~~ for transmitting a request for media data to the meta data server, the client using the meta data received from the meta data server to locate at least one media data server and access the requested media data.

3-4.   (Canceled)

21685/06151/SF/51115612.1

5.   (Previously presented) The system as in claim 2, wherein a second client of said at least one client functions as a first media data server of said at least one media data server, and wherein the at least one meta data server informs said at least one client that said second client functioning as a first media data server has access to said requested media data.

6-8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Currently amended) A method for servicing media data requests in a meta data server, the method comprising:

 receiving a media data request from a client, the request received by a meta data

  server ~~on a media network~~ managed by a media service provider;

 retrieving meta data associated with the media data request from a meta data

  database, the meta data for use by the client to access the requested media data

  from a media data server, the media data server separate from the meta data

  server ~~media network~~ and controlled by a media data owner different from

  ~~independent of~~ the media service provider; and

 transmitting the meta data to the client ~~over the media network~~.

10.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data contains an address for a plurality of ~~at least one~~ media data servers ~~server~~, the method further comprising:

 designating a primary media data server of said at least one media data server based

  upon criteria gathered from a communications network between the client and

  the media data servers ~~the media network~~.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the least number of clients accessing media data files.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having a highest reliability rating.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the highest data throughput.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated by the meta data server.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated by the client.

16-17. (Canceled)

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the requested media data are encrypted, the method further comprising:
      requesting an encryption key for the requested media data from a meta data database; and
      transmitting the encryption key to the client.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said meta data comprises at least one data item, said at least one data item selected from the list of:
      a network address of a primary server that has access to the media data file;
      a directory structure of a primary storage device that contains the media data file;
      a name of the media data file;

a network address of at least one alternate server that has access to the media data file;

a directory structure of at least one alternate storage devices that contains the media data file;

a name of and owner of the media data file;

a name of a composer of the media data file;

a name of the copyright holder of the media data file;

a network address of a server that has access to a graphical image associated with the media data file;

a directory structure of a storage device that contains a graphical image associated the media data file;

a name of a graphical image file associated the media data file; a title of an artistic work contained in the media data file;

a title of a body of work in which the media data file is associated; a name of at least one performer of the media data file;

a name of at least one composer of artistic work contained on the media data file;

a name of at least one creators of the media data file;

a network address of a server that has access to additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;

a directory structure of a storage device that contains additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;

a name of a file that contains additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;

a network address of a server which offers a sale of the media data file; a directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for the media data file;

a name of a file that contains information on a sale of the media data file; a network address of a server which offers a sale of associated products of the media data file;

a directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for the associated products of the media data file; and

a name of a file that contains information on sales of associated products of the media data file.

21.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

receiving a log in request from the ~~said~~ client ~~over the communication network~~; and

performing a client access permission verification.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data transmitted to the client are for a portion of the requested media data that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media data, the method further comprising:

requesting additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media data; and

transmitting the additional meta data to the client.

24.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the media data are encrypted, the method further comprising:

receiving an encryption key for the media data from the meta data server.

25.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the meta data received from the meta data server is for a portion of the requested media data that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media data, the method further comprising:

receiving additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media data from the meta data server; and

accessing the additional portion of the requested media data using the additional meta data.

26.　(Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the media data are encrypted, and the meta data server transmits [[and]] an encryption key to the client for using the media data.

27.　(Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the meta data server transmits to the client meta data for a portion of the requested media data, the portion of the requested media data being unusable without an additional portion of the requested media data, and the meta data server further transmits to the client additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media data, the client using the additional meta data to access the additional portion of the media data from a media data server.

28.　(New) A method for obtaining media content in a client device, the method comprising:

　　requesting media content from a media service system managed by a media service
　　　　provider;
　　receiving meta data from the media service system, the meta data associated with the
　　　　requested media content;
　　using the received meta data to locate an electronic device on a network, the
　　　　electronic device separate from the media service system and controlled by an
　　　　entity different from the media service provider; and
　　accessing the requested media content from the electronic device.

29.　(New) The method of claim 28, wherein the media content is encrypted, the method further comprising:
　　receiving an encryption key for the media content from the electronic device.

30.　(New) The method of claim 28, wherein the media content received from the electronic device is for a portion of the requested media content that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media content, the method further comprising:
　　receiving additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media
　　　　content from the media service system; and

accessing the additional portion of the requested media content using the additional meta data.

31. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the requested media content is accessed from the electronic device over the Internet.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the requested media content is an audio file.

33. (New) A method for servicing requests for media content by a media service provider, the method comprising:

receiving a request for media content from a client, the request received by a media service system managed by the media service provider;

retrieving meta data associated with the requested media content from a meta data database, the meta data for use by the client to access the requested media content from an electronic device that is separate from the media service system and controlled by an entity different from the media service provider; and

transmitting the meta data to the client.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the requested media content is encrypted, the method further comprising:

requesting an encryption key for the requested media content from a meta data database; and

transmitting the encryption key to the client.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the meta data transmitted to the client are for a portion of the requested media content that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media content, the method further comprising:

requesting additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media content; and

transmitting the additional meta data to the client.

36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the requested media content is accessible from the electronic device over the Internet.

38. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the requested media content is an audio file.

39. (New) A computer program product for obtaining media content in a client device, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium containing computer program code for performing the operations:

requesting media content from a media service system managed by a media service provider;

receiving meta data from the media service system, the meta data associated with the requested media content;

using the received meta data to locate an electronic device on a network, the electronic device separate from the media service system and controlled by an entity different from of the media service provider; and

accessing the requested media content from the electronic device.

40.   (New) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the media content is encrypted, the computer-readable medium further containing computer program code for performing the operation:

     receiving an encryption key for the media content from the electronic device.

41.   (New) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the media content received from the electronic device is for a portion of the requested media content that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media content, the computer-readable medium further containing computer program code for performing the operations:

     receiving additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media content from the media service system; and

     accessing the additional portion of the requested media content using the additional meta data.

42.   (New) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

43.   (New) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the requested media content is accessed from the electronic device over the Internet.

44.   (New) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the requested media content is an audio file.

45.   (New) A computer program product for servicing requests for media content by a media service provider, the computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium containing computer program code for performing the operations:

     receiving a request for media content from a client, the request received by a media service system managed by the media service provider;

     retrieving meta data associated with the requested media content from a meta data database, the meta data for use by the client to access the requested media

content from an electronic device that is separate from the media service system and controlled by an entity different from the media service provider; and

transmitting the meta data to the client.

46.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the requested media content is encrypted, the computer-readable medium further containing computer program code for performing the operations:

requesting an encryption key for the requested media content from a meta data
database; and

transmitting the encryption key to the client.

47.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the meta data transmitted to the client are for a portion of the requested media content that is unusable without an additional portion of the requested media content, the computer-readable medium further containing computer program code for performing the operations:

requesting additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media
content; and

transmitting the additional meta data to the client.

48.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the electronic device is a computer system.

49.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the requested media content is accessible from the electronic device over the Internet.

50.   (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the requested media content is an audio file.

51.   (New) A distributed media system comprising:

a media service system managed by a media service provider, wherein in response to receiving a request for media content the media service system provides meta data associated with the requested media content;

a plurality of electronic devices separate from the media service system and controlled by an entity different from the media service provider; and

a client device for transmitting a request for media content to the media service system, the client device using the meta data received from the media service system to locate at least one of the electronic devices and access the requested media content therefrom.

52.   (New) The distributed media system of claim 51, wherein the media content is encrypted, and the media service system transmits an encryption key to the client device for using the media content.

53.   (New) The distributed media system of claim 51, wherein the media service system transmits to the client device meta data for a portion of the requested media content, the portion of the requested media content being unusable without an additional portion of the requested media content, and the media service system further transmits to the client device additional meta data for the additional portion of the requested media content, the client device using the additional meta data to access the additional portion of the media content from one or the electronic devices.

54.   (New) The distributed media system of claim 51, wherein the electronic devices are computer systems.

55.   (New) The distributed media system of claim 51, wherein the requested media content is accessed from an electronic device over the Internet.

C2

56.   (New) The distributed media system of claim 51, wherein the requested media

content is an audio file.